

TURKEY.

THE GREAT FIRE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Herald Special Report of the Conflagration—The Losses of Life and Property—The Sultan at the Post of Danger—City and Suburban Scenes.

By the European mail at this port yesterday we have the following special from Constantinople in thrilling detail of the late fire calamity in the Turkish capital, the origin, spread and fatal results of the conflagration.

"Fire! Fire!"

CONSTANTINOPLE, June 8, 1870.

The 5th of June will long be a memorable day in the minds of the present and coming generation of the inhabitants of Pera, that part of this capital occupied by the foreign legations, the greater part of the foreign population and a vast number of native Christians. Although a wooden house, situated on the highest part of the city, called the Taxim, caught fire, and, freshened by a violent north wind, it spread with fearful rapidity over an extent almost incredible; from the Taxim to what is called the Petit Champs des Morts, along the main street to some distance between the Galata Seray College, consuming all of the fine houses of the place, of stone as well as wood. Some 10,000 houses have been burned, and it is supposed about 1,000 persons, men, women and children. The loss is estimated to be some \$25,000,000.

All of the finest cafes, the opera and shops, with all of their contents. It burned from noon of the 5th to the following morning, and, perhaps, at no other time has there been so terrible a catastrophe occurred here or in any other capital of Europe. Frequent as fires are in this place, no one remembers any one which consumed so many fine houses, such valuable effects, and cost so many lives. The dead are still being taken out of the ashes, some from wells, cisterns and cellars, into which they proposed to escape from the raging element of fire. Some have been found in wells still alive. Few were found still living in the open ground. Smothered by the heat and smoke, hundreds fell exhausted in the streets, and were covered up in the falling cinders and burning fragments.

In one place twenty-two females were found dead in a cellar. Others were surrounded by their dear ones, the smallest in their arms, all dead. Many lost their lives in fruitless attempts to save the lives or property of their friends.

Many Turkish gentlemen came over from Stamboul to aid their Christian friends and convey their families to their own houses. All of the Sultan's ministers hastened to the scene and did much to save lives, but with small success in saving houses and property.

The Grand Vizier and the Ministers of Police and War were particularly conspicuous in the very midst of the flames, and before midnight the Sultan also came from the side of the Taxim, and did much to encourage the firemen in their vain efforts to avert the flames with sums of money and words of promise and encouragement. His clothes having taken fire, his suite finally prevailed upon him to retire.

The next morning his Majesty again returned, and, as is said, he remained until the flames had been extinguished. He had been in the city for some time, and had already thoughtfully ordered some five hundred tents to be brought to the square of the Taxim and the adjacent Armenian and Greek cemeteries, and carts were everywhere seen conveying food to the houseless and utterly destitute poor.

SAD SCENES.

Such a heartrending scene of desolation cannot be imagined; it must be seen. Mothers, fathers and friends walking among the ashes in search of children, brothers and sisters! Here some twenty dead bodies lay together, almost buried into a dark mass of charred matter; there a number of others, scarcely buried at all, "sleeping the sleep which knows no waking." Some were but little changed, though swollen, while many others could scarcely be recognized, having been lying for several days.

Several, many even small children, were found in the crowd and rush and abandoned to their sad fate. Many must have been trodden to death under the feet of those who maddly rushed along the fiery streets in search of life and fresh air. What a fearful calamity which had befallen his subjects! He had already thoughtfully ordered some five hundred tents to be brought to the square of the Taxim and the adjacent Armenian and Greek cemeteries, and carts were everywhere seen conveying food to the houseless and utterly destitute poor.

LOSS OF LIFE BY THE FIRE.

(From the Cork Herald, June 17.)

The late disastrous fire in Constantinople, besides the destruction of \$25,000,000 worth of property, has resulted in the loss of over 2,000 lives. The bodies of 1,000 persons had been recovered up to the 5th inst.

The staff of the English legation published in Constantinople, the names of the persons who had been killed, the composers and the clerks, were burned out, and barely escaped with their lives.

TERRIBLE CASUALTY IN DUBUQUE.

Four Young Men Killed Up by Gunpowder—One of Them Blew—The Others Dangerously Injured.

DUBUQUE, June 22.

One of the most shocking accidents of the above nature that we have ever been called upon to record occurred in this city, last Sunday afternoon. The Catholic church of that vicinity were engaged in holding a grand religious festival peculiar to that faith, the ceremonies consisting of a procession composed of men, women and children, who were disposed around several altars that had been constructed for the occasion. The procession was moving along the street, and the priest, who was at the head of the procession, was just about to bless the people, when a cannon ball, fired from a distance, struck the priest, and he fell to the ground, and was killed on the spot.

The wind was so violent that the flames spread everywhere at once; the people no longer knew where to fly; all around them nothing appeared but certain death in its most frightful form, and it is only surprising that any of the victims were saved.

The British Embassy, surrounded by flames, took fire in the afternoon, and is now only a mass of smoking ruins. Its archives and some of the silver were found.

The American Consulate was burned, but some of its archives have been saved.

The American Legation, the Secretary's houses were saved, the quarter in which they are situated, called *Al-Jamiliya*, not having taken fire at all, the wind blowing the flames to another direction.

An Armenian gentleman named Andros Endendi passed by the burning of the Legation, and saw that he saved all the rest of the city. It is at the corner of Galata Seray and the street called *Yan Charcos*. Some \$5,000 have been already collected for the sufferers, and clothing and coverings for the victims distributed everywhere.

One of the Sultan's barracks has been given up to the sufferers.

The firemen have organized a committee of aid for those who are in want of food and other necessities, and have called upon their brethren in the city to contribute to the relief of the sufferers.

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